

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-15 JUSE-00 /111 W

-----075645 201309Z /43

R 190849Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7220

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ETRD, MTN, JA
SUBJECT: JAPANESE EXPORT RESTRICTIONS

REF: TOKYO 5712

1. MITI HAS ANNOUNCED STEPS TO RESTRAIN EXPORTS OF SEVERAL COMMODITIES ACCORDING TO A SERIES OF RECENT PRESS REPORTS. T. WADA, VICE MINISTER OF MITI, IS QUOTED AS SAYING MITI PLANS TO HOLD DOWN JAPAN'S EXPORTS DURING JFY 1978 TO THE SAME VOLAXE AS JFY 1977 THROUGH MITI "ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE" TO THE INDUSTRIES CONCERNED AS A PART OF THE GOJ PROGRAM TO REDUCE JAPAN'S CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS THIS JFY. ALTHOUGH LEGAL MEASURES ALSO EXIST WHICH COULD BE USED TO CONTROL EXPORTS, MITI DOES NOT WANT TO INVOKE THEM BECAUSE THE LAWS LACK FLEXIBILITY AND WOULD PROBABLY SET OFF A DELUGE OF EXPORTS BEFORE THEY COULD BE PUT INTO EFFECT.

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2. THE PRESS REPORTS NOTE THAT AUTOMOBILE EXPORTS HAVE ESPECIALLY BEEN SINGLED OUT FOR CURBS AND THAT MITI HOPES THESE EXPORTS WILL BE "SEVERAL PERCENT LESS THAN PRECEDING YEARS." MITI IS ALSO REPORTED TO BE WATCHING EXPORTS OF STEEL, COLOR TELEVISION SETS, SHIPS, MOTORCYCLES AND

COPYING MACHINES. WRISTWATCHES, CAMERAS, AND VIDEO RECORDERS HAVE ALSO BEEN MENTIONED AS CANDIDATES FOR POSSIBLE EXPORT CONTROLS. MOST MANUFACTURERS HAVE SAID THEY ARE NOT WORRIED ABOUT THE CONTROLS BECAUSE YEN APPRECIATION AND ACCOMPANYING PRICE RISES WILL MAKE THEM LESS COMPETITIVE ABROAD.

3. COMMENT: EMBOFF'S APPROACHES TO TRY TO VERIFY THE ABOVE REPORTS HAVE BEEN MET WITH VARYING DEGREES OF WAFLING BY GOJ OFFICIALS, CONCEIVABLY BECAUSE OF AN AWARENESS OF POSSIBLE U.S. ANTITRUST ACTION. MITI OFFICIALS WILL ONLY ADMIT THAT THEY ARE WATCHING EXPORT LEVELS AND HAVE NO INTENTION OF INVOKING EXPORT CONTROL LAWS. THEY ALSO POINT OUT THAT ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE, IF ISSUED, IS ONLY SEMI-OFFICIAL IN NATURE AND DOES NOT CARRY ANY LEGAL WEIGHT. END COMMENT.

MANSFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Film Number: D780169-0210
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780438/aaaabfto.tel
Line Count: 81
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6f3d01ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2910314
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: JAPANESE EXPORT RESTRICTIONS
TAGS: ETRD, JA, MTN
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